

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Maxwell, Grady](#); [Filippini, Mark](#)
Subject: RE: Park Place Drinking Water Update - June 27, 2014
Date: Monday, June 30, 2014 10:20:36 AM

Mark and Grady

I find it really, really disturbing that the Environmental Protection Agency cannot give information to women who have been pregnant and/or nursing working in this building any information about the potential exposure they have had to lead and copper. It is even more distressing knowing that, if, an (b) (6) going out to a community to inform them about contaminants we've found in drinking water, I would probably be expected to have a better answer than contact the Federal Health Occupation Board or your local physician. I have absolutely no idea what I would say besides "I may have been exposed to high levels of lead and/or copper while pregnant and nursing"- and I wouldn't be able to answer any other questions my pediatrician might have.

Frankly- I am more concerned now than before, and have no information to which to inform myself about the potential risks or harm that I may have exposed my kids too.

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From: Maxwell, Grady
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 10:01 AM
To: (b) (6)(b) (6); Filippini, Mark
Subject: RE: Park Place Drinking Water Update - June 27, 2014
(b) (6),

By some unfortunate chance you register a high blood or copper level after testing, I would not know whether to contribute it to the building or some other source. If someone tested high for blood or copper levels which contributed some an illness the worker may file a claim with Occupational Worker's Compensation.

I've worked with federal occupational health services to have their medical experts provide answers to staff during testing. Also, within the original message are additional resources for staff with questions to contact regarding lead/copper in drinking water.

The test would show what your lead/copper blood level presently, however I'd like to emphasize that a medical expert would be a better resource to direct your questions.

If questions or I can be of further assistance, please contact me at 3-0241.

Thanks,

Grady

From: (b) (6)(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 8:01 AM
To: Maxwell, Grady; Filippini, Mark

Subject: FW: Park Place Drinking Water Update - June 27, 2014

Mark and Grady

I am just curious- if I were to get my blood levels tested, and they came back elevated- then what? How would I know that the elevated levels were due to drinking water from the building? If it was due to the drinking water in the building, how does that work with EPA and L&I and all of that stuff? What is the depuration rate of lead in your blood (or copper) and drinking water? What about copper? Would the testing really only show me about my current rates of Pb/Cu but no information about past exposure?

Sorry- I didn't go to the Q&A sessions, and I am just very confused on if I should be concerned or not. Since I was pregnant- twice- over the last 5 years and nursing for two of those years- I am less concerned about myself and more concerned about the kiddos. I am not entirely sure how long the Pb and Cu levels have been higher- although it sounds like- based on the existing data- it is mostly limited to floors 7 & 10- and maybe the hot water taps (I have lived off of those for years as I sip tea all day).

Hopefully green tea cancels out any metals.

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From: Kelly, Joyce

Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 12:33 PM

Subject: Park Place Drinking Water Update - June 27, 2014

Updates Included in this Message:

- Information about blood lead and copper testing for employees.
- Clarification on the EPA “action level” for lead.
- Schedule for upcoming additional drinking water sampling.

Blood Lead and Copper Testing:

Recent testing of some drinking water sources on EPA-occupied floors in the Park Place Building have shown elevated levels of lead and copper. Management and the R10 Safety and Health Program have arranged for blood testing for both metals at the Federal Occupational Health (FOH) Clinic located at the Jackson Federal Building. EPA employees concerned about possible exposure to elevated levels of lead and copper can have their blood levels tested at no cost to you.

Federal Occupational Health services are available to **EPA employees only**. Volunteers, SEEs, contractors, and family members are not eligible for FOH services. If you are concerned about elevated blood lead or copper levels or are not eligible for FOH services, we encourage you to consult with your personal physician or contact one of the other resources

listed below under “Health Contacts”.

We understand your concerns regarding the potential health risks related to lead and copper exposure. In order to expedite testing, employees seeking blood lead/copper testing at FOH must first submit their name to Grady Maxwell, Regional Health & Safety Officer (a sign-up sheet will be posted outside Grady’s office or you can contact him via email:

maxwell.grady@epa.gov). Grady will forward this information to the FOH clinic and then contact you about how to make an appointment for testing.

When the results are available, FOH will provide a letter for each employee tested indicating whether or not your blood level is within the “normal range” for lead and copper. Per the Interagency Agreement between EPA and FOH, a copy of this letter will be sent to the EPA Regional Health & Safety Officer. The Agency will abide by HIPPA regulations and will not share this information with anyone. If you’d like the quantitative results of your tests, please contact the FOH clinic directly.

Health Contacts:

Federal Occupational Health Clinic

Jackson Federal Building
915 2nd Avenue, Room 570
Seattle, WA 98174-1099
Phone: 206-220-7630
Hours: 7:30am - 4:00pm

For a referral to a healthcare professional specializing in exposure to lead or copper we suggest you contact:

The Occupational and Environmental Clinic at Harborview (for adults)

325 9th Avenue

Seattle, WA 98104

<http://www.uwmedicine.org/locations/occupational-and-environmental-harborview>

(206) 520-5000

Northwest Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (for children)

325 9th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104
www.depts.washington.edu/pehsu
(206) 744-9380

Toll Free West of the Mississippi River: 1-877-KID-CHEM or (877) 543-2436

E-mail [Kemp@u.washington.edu](mailto: Kemp@u.washington.edu)

Clarification on the EPA “action level” for lead:

Wendy Marshall in the Drinking Water Unit in the Office of Water and Watersheds provided an important clarification on EPA’s action level for lead. A previous update inaccurately stated that that “the allowable lead level is 15 micrograms per liter (µg/L) or parts per billion (ppb)”. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires EPA to determine the level of contaminants in drinking water at which no adverse health effects are likely to occur with an adequate margin of safety. These non-enforceable health goals, based solely on possible health risks are called maximum contaminant level goals (MCLGs). The MCLG for lead is zero. EPA has set this

level based on the best available science which shows there is no safe level of exposure to lead. The National Primary Drinking Water Regulations' action level of 15 µg/L for lead is not a health-based standard, but rather a technology based standard that triggers certain follow-up activities for public water systems.

Upcoming Sampling Scheduled for July 3, 2014:

Sampling will be conducted for copper and again for lead at the water fountains, kitchen sinks, and/or refrigerator water dispensers on floors 21, 20, 17, 16, the fitness center, and the 1st floor PERC. In addition, we will sample for lead and copper at the hot water dispensers on floors 7 through 13 and 18 and in the ATSDR office on the 5th floor. Samples will be collected by EPA Regional staff and analyzed by the OEA Manchester Laboratory. Results are expected approximately 2 weeks after sample collection. The updated sampling QAPP will be posted on the [Drinking Water Quality in Park Place](#) web page. The drinking water data will be posted on the webpage and announced via email when it is received from the laboratory.

If you have questions or need more information:

If you have questions about what we are doing to address the drinking water issues or would like to provide input, please contact Grady Maxwell, Regional Health and Safety Officer, 206-553-0241, maxwell.grady@epa.gov or Mark Filippini, 206-553-6327, filippini.mark@epa.gov.

Joyce

Joyce C. Kelly, Director
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